



CFC-Containing Appliance Special Waste Management Plan Metro Transfer Station Operations

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PURPOSE

This document is a standard operating procedure for the acceptance, handling, storage, and removal of waste related to acceptance of CFC-containing appliances at the Metro South or Central Transfer Station.

BACKGROUND

Metro accepts household-sized appliances containing CFCs, such as refrigerators and air conditioners, at Metro transfer stations. In most cases, these appliances are staged and reloaded for transport to a properly licensed third party where CFCs and other hazardous components are removed.

In all cases, special care should be taken to prevent damage to the appliance when moving or loading them.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS OF CFC-CONTAINING APPLIANCES

CFCs are gaseous refrigerants found in air conditioners, refrigerators and freezers manufactured prior to 2003, and other appliances. CFCs are potent ozone- depleting substances, and when released can deplete stratospheric ozone, which provides important protection against ultraviolet radiation. Ultraviolet radiation can cause skin cancer, and is harmful to animals and plants.

CFCs are considered low toxicity, but large exposures can result in flu-like symptoms.

Special Consideration or handling:

Older units are likely to contain SO₂ or Ammonia as a coolant. While not regulated by the Clean Air Act, these units should be handled with caution so as not to damage the unit resulting in release of the coolants, which can become inhalation hazards to the workers or customers.

ACCEPTANCE OF CFC- CONTAINING APPLIANCES

Metro's transfer stations charge a \$30 fee per unit for appliances that were built to contain Freon or other coolant. There is a limit of five units per day, per customer (except by special arrangement). No large commercial units are accepted. This fee is charged even if refrigerant lines are cut and it is obvious that no CFCs remain, in order to discourage generators from venting the refrigerant prior to disposal. The fee is waived for units received from EPA-certified CFC technicians.

RECYCLING/DISPOSAL

Because of the limited space at both transfer stations, these appliances are staged, reloaded and transported to an off- site location. Each vendor inspects the appliances, evacuates the coolant following EPA guidelines and recycles the remaining materials.

Coolant containing appliances are removed at least twice per week from each station. CFC-containing equipment is not knowingly be disposed of with solid waste or transferred to a landfill for disposal.

